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Urban District of Brentwood



Annual Report

of the

Medical Officer of Health

and the

Chief Public Health Inspector

for

1963

Urban District of Brentwood

MEMBERS OF THE COUNCIL

(as at the 31.12.63)

Chairman: Mr. C. J. L. Fox, J.P.

Vice-Chairman: Mr. J. A. Isgrove

C. Barber	(1)
A. M. Cannon	(1)
J. W. Cole	(1)
A. J. Davidson	(1)
G. C. Green	
J. R. G. Higgs	(1)
M. Horovitch	
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T. W. Kenner	
F. Lockett	(1)
D. O. Lacey	
K. A. Langley	
H. L. Lansdell	(1)
R. A. Laver	(1)
K. E. Nicholls	
J. W. E. Reddell	
J. A. Rowe	
F. W. C. Salway	(2)
F. H. Sanderson	
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D. F. Shiels	(3)
J. M. Smith	
J. Thompson	
H. Van den Branden, J.P.	(1)
B. W. Wignall	(1)

(1) Member of the Health and Sewerage Committee.

(2) Chairman of the Health and Sewerage Committee.

(3) Vice-Chairman of the Health and Sewerage Committee.

PUBLIC HEALTH DEPARTMENT STAFF)

(as at the 31.12.63)

Medical Officer of Health:

Dr. John R. R. Wray, M.R.C.S., L.R.C.P., D.P.H.—commenced 4.11.63.

Dr. Dilwyn T. Jones, B.Sc., M.B., B.Ch., D.C.H., D.P.H.—resigned
31.5.63.

Deputy Medical Officer of Health:

Dr. Mary Ransome, M.B., B.S., M.R.C.S., L.R.C.P.

(Acting Medical Officer from 1.6.63 to 3.11.63).

Chief Public Health Inspector:

Mr. P. T. Shelton, M.A.P.H.I., M.R.S.H., Public Health Inspector, Meat and Food Inspector, Royal Society of Health's Certificate in Sanitary Science as applied to Buildings and Public Works, Final Examination Chartered Auctioneers' and Estate Agents Institute .

Deputy Chief Public Health Inspector:

Mr. E. A. Sheppard, M.A.P.H.I., C.R.San.I., Public Health Inspector, Meat and Food Inspector, Royal Society of Health's Certificate in Sanitary Science as applied to Buildings and Public Works.

District Inspectors:

Mr. J. Millward, M.A.P.H.I., C.R.San.I., Public Health Inspector, Meat and Food Inspector, R.S.H. Diploma for Smoke Inspectors, Certificate—Liverpool University for Boilerhouse Practice and Fuel Economy, London University in Environmental Sanitation.

(Commenced November, 1963.)

Mr. G. D. John, M.A.P.H.I., C.R.San.I., Public Health Inspector, Meat and Foods Inspector, R.S.H. Diploma for Smoke Inspectors.

(Commenced November, 1963.)

Mr. J. K. Blakeley, M.A.P.H.I., C.R.San.I., Public Health Inspector, Meat and Food Inspector, R.S.H. Diploma for Smoke Inspectors.

(Resigned October, 1963.)

Mr. D. H. Gilkes, M.A.P.H.I., Certificate of the Royal Society of Health, Meat and Food Inspector, R.S.H. Diploma for Smoke Inspectors. (Resigned October, 1963.)

Clerk: Miss E. P. Turff, A.R.S.H. Part-time Clerk: Mrs. J. M. Smith.

ANNUAL REPORT OF THE MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH FOR THE YEAR 1963

To the Chairman and Members of the
Urban District Council of Brentwood.

Mr. Chairman, Ladies and Gentlemen,

I have much pleasure in presenting my Annual Report for 1963.

As I did not take up my appointment with your Council until November, 1963, much of the information about the events occurring during the year has been gathered from the files with the assistance of Mr. Shelton and Miss Turff.

I have now had sufficient time to become personally acquainted with the main environmental and social conditions which affect the public health of Brentwood, and I have picked out in my report the most important of these. There are, of course, other factors affecting the public health which I have not mentioned in the report such as facilities for sport and recreation (which are very good in Brentwood) and the very low level of unemployment. The overall picture is that the Urban District of Brentwood is a very healthy area in which to live.

I am sure you would wish me to draw attention to the help given by Dr. Mary Ransome, who did a wonderful job of work as Acting Medical Officer of Health from June to November, 1963. We have now heard she is happily settled with her family in Australia and enjoying a new life there.

I should like to thank all members of the Council for the encouragement and kindness they have shown me whilst I have been settling into my new appointment, and to express my gratitude to the staff of the health department for their support and efficient work. I should also like to record my appreciation of the co-operation and help I have received from officers of other departments.

I am,

Mr. Chairman, Ladies and Gentlemen,

Your obedient servant,

JOHN R. WRAY.

Section "A"

STATISTICS AND SOCIAL CONDITIONS

Area in Acres	18,166
Estimated (mid-year) Resident Population (Registrar General's figures)	52,930
Rateable Value	£2,093,038
Sum represented by a Penny Rate	£8,850
Number of Inhabited Houses	15,544

VITAL STATISTICS

Live Births:	M.	F.	Total
Total Number of Births	474	430	904
Number of Legitimate Births	462	412	874
Legitimate Births (% of total live births)			96.67%
Number of Illegitimate Births	12	18	30
Illegitimate Births (% of total live births)			3.3%
Crude Birth Rate per 1,000 population			17.08
Area Comparability Factor			0.93
Corrected Birth Rate			15.88

	Brentwood		England & Wales	
	1962	1963	1962	1963
Live Birth Rate per 1,000 population	16.85	15.88	18.0	18.2
Illegitimate Births (% of total Live Births)	4.93	3.3	—	—

Still Births:	M.	F.	Total
Number of Still Births	5	2	7
Legitimate	5	2	7
Illegitimate	—	—	—
Stillbirth Rate per 1,000 total Live and Stillbirths			7.68
Total Live and Stillbirths			911

	Brentwood		England & Wales	
	1962	1963	1962	1963
Stillbirth Rate per 1,000 total Live and Stillbirths	15.5	7.68	18.1	17.3

Deaths:	M.	F.	Total
Total Deaths	267	318	585
Crude Death Rate			11.05
Area Comparability Factor			0.85
Corrected Death Rate			9.39

	Brentwood		England & Wales	
	1962	1963	1962	1963
Death Rate per 1,000 population	9.45	9.39	11.9	12.2

Infant Mortality:

Infant Mortality Rate (total infant deaths per 1,000 total live births)	14.38
Legitimate Infant Mortality Rate (total legitimate infant deaths per 1,000 legitimate live births) ...	14.87
Illegitimate Infant Mortality Rate (total illegitimate infant deaths per 1,000 illegitimate live births) ...	Nil
Neo-natal Mortality Rate (deaths of infants under four weeks per 1,000 total live births)	8.85
Early Neo-natal Mortality Rate (deaths under one week per 1,000 total live births)	8.85
Perinatal Mortality Rate (stillbirths and deaths under one week combined per 1,000 total live and stillbirths)	16.47

	Brentwood		England & Wales	
	1962	1963	1962	1963
Infant Mortality Rate	12.6	14.38	21.6	20.9
Illegitimate Infant Mortality Rate	Nil		Nil	
Neo-natal Mortality Rate	9.44	8.85	15.1	14.2
Perinatal Mortality Rate	23.76	16.47	30.8	29.3

Maternal Mortality (including abortion):

Number of deaths due to pregnancy or confinement ...	Nil
Maternal Mortality Rate per 1,000 total live and stillbirths	Nil

	Brentwood		England & Wales	
	1962	1963	1962	1963
Maternal Mortality Rate	1.03	Nil	0.35	0.28

VITAL STATISTICS

As mention was made in last year's Annual Report of the illegitimate birth rate I would like to comment that there is a Home for unmarried mothers in Brentwood and that, although they give birth to their babies in Brentwood and therefore affect our illegitimate birth rate, most of these mothers are not Brentwood residents. (There have only been two mothers from Brentwood during the past three years.)

I would like to draw attention to the low infant mortality rate and the extremely low perinatal mortality rate for Brentwood compared with the rest of England and Wales. Although to some extent this reflects a prosperous community with good housing conditions, I consider it also reflects great credit on the skill of the local General Practitioners. They are ably assisted by the Midwives and Health Visitors provided by the Essex County Council.

I am also convinced that the Brentwood Maternity Home and the Brentwood District Hospital contribute to these low rates and show the great advantage of hospital beds being available to local General Medical Practitioners.

CAUSES OF DEATH

					1963		1962	
					Male	Female	Total	Total
Tuberculosis, respiratory	...	...	...	...	—	—	—	2
Tuberculosis, other	...	...	...	...	1	—	1	—
Other infective and parasitic diseases	...	...	...	...	1	1	2	3
Malignant neoplasm, stomach	...	...	...	...	5	2	7	12
Malignant neoplasm, lung bronchus	...	...	...	...	20	3	23	19
Malignant neoplasm breast	...	...	...	...	—	12	12	11
Malignant neoplasm, uterus	...	...	...	...	—	4	4	4
Other malignant and lymphatic neoplasms	...	...	...	...	33	39	72	41
Leukaemia, aleukamia	...	...	...	...	2	4	6	6
Diabetes	...	...	...	...	1	3	4	5
Vascular lesions of nervous system	...	...	...	...	23	42	65	64
Coronary disease, angina	...	...	...	...	52	50	102	105
Hypertension with heart disease	...	...	...	...	2	3	5	13
Other heart disease	...	...	...	...	25	47	72	96
Other circulatory disease	...	...	...	...	11	17	28	24
Influenza	...	...	...	...	—	2	2	—
Pneumonia	...	...	...	...	19	30	49	41
Bronchitis	...	...	...	...	27	14	41	33
Other diseases of respiratory system	...	...	...	...	2	2	4	7
Ulcer of stomach and duodenum	...	...	...	...	1	2	3	1
Gastritis, enteritis and diarrhoea	...	...	...	...	—	1	1	1
Nephritis and nephrosis	...	...	...	...	—	2	2	2
Hyperplasia of prostate	...	...	...	...	6	—	6	—
Pregnancy, childbirth, abortion	...	...	...	...	—	—	—	1
Congenital malformations	...	...	...	...	1	4	5	4
Other defined and ill-defined diseases	...	...	...	...	21	21	42	41
Motor Vehicle Accidents	...	...	...	...	3	2	5	8
All other accidents	...	...	...	...	7	11	18	13
Suicide	...	...	...	...	4	—	4	2
					267	318	585	559

Coronary disease accounts for the biggest total of deaths in the district, 102 deaths compared with 105 last year. The numbers of deaths were almost the same for women as for men. The factors involved in the disease are personal rather than environmental, and people should be advised to be abstemious in their diet, take sufficient physical exercise, avoid unnecessary psychological stress and stop (or severely ration) their smoking.

It should be noted that there has been a small increase in deaths from lung cancer and bronchitis. This reflects the national picture due to smoking habits and continual air pollution. Compared with last year the biggest increase amongst the tabulated causes of death has been malignant neoplasms. This presumably reflects the fact that people now-a-days are dying at a much older age when cancer is common. It should be noted that motor vehicle accidents, as a cause of death, declined compared with the previous year, which reflects credit on the hard work of the Council's Road Safety Committee. Unfortunately accidents from other causes increased and these were mostly home accidents which the Brentwood Home Safety Committee is doing its best to combat.

ANALYSIS OF NOTIFIABLE DISEASES UNDER AGE GROUPS

Diseases:	Under 1 yr. 1 yr.		2 yrs.		3 yrs.		4 yrs.		5-9		10-14	15-24	25-44	45-64	65 & over	Total:
	M.	F.	M.	F.	M.	F.	M.	F.	M.	F.	M.	F.	M.	F.	M.	F.
Scarlet Fever ...	1	—	1	—	—	—	—	—	2	—	2	1	—	—	—	6
Whooping Cough ...	1	2	5	5	1	—	3	2	5	5	1	—	—	—	—	15
Measles ...	14	12	39	52	60	65	74	72	67	305	294	11	10	2	2	577
Dysentery ...	3	—	2	—	2	2	1	1	3	21	12	6	—	—	—	37
Pneumonia ...	—	—	—	—	—	—	1	—	—	—	—	1	1	2	1	5
Typhoid Fever ...	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	1	—	1
Paratyphoid Fever ...	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	1	—	—	—	1
Erysipelas ...	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	1
Food Poisoning ...	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	1
Tuberculosis—																
respiratory ...	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	1	4	2	2	6
Tuberculosis—																
other forms ...	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	1	—	—
Puerperal pyrexia ...	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	1	—	—

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INFECTIOUS DISEASES

The following is a comparative table of notification of infectious diseases:—

	1962	1963
Puerperal pyrexia	1	1
Scarlet Fever	10	8
Whooping Cough	20	30
Measles	334	1,158
Dysentery	3	82
Pneumonia	7	10
Typhoid Fever	—	1
Paratyphoid Fever	—	1
Erysipelas	2	1
Food Poisoning	11	2
Tuberculosis—respiratory	13	10
Tuberculosis—other forms	2	1
Infective Hepatitis	4	—
	407	1,305

Scarlet Fever:

As in previous years there were a few scattered cases that were mild in character.

Whooping Cough:

There was a slight increase over 1962 in the number of cases notified. Most of the cases occurred either in the under two years of age group or the primary school age group. It is, therefore, very important that mothers have their children vaccinated in the first year of life, and that they are given a booster dose in their second year.

Measles:

This was, as expected, an epidemic year for measles and most of the cases occurred in primary school children.

Analysing the distribution by Wards as was done in the 1962 annual report shows that Hutton Ward suffered less severely than in 1961 because it had more cases in the intermediate year of 1962. The World Health Organisation has undertaken studies in eight countries to investigate various types of measles vaccine. The success in reducing the incidence of poliomyelitis has encouraged the work to discover an efficient measles vaccine. Unfortunately the vaccines so far tested have either been so mild that they do not give protection that lasts long enough or else those that give long lasting immunity have been found to produce serious reactions in some of the persons vaccinated. Further trials of vaccines are proceeding.

Poliomyelitis:

No cases occurred during the year. There have been no cases since 1959. This is undoubtedly due to the intensive vaccination programme. The oral vaccine which is given in syrup to infants or on a sugar lump to older children is much more acceptable to them than an injection.

Enteric Fever:

There was one case of paratyphoid fever in May and one case of typhoid fever in November, 1963. In each case there was every reason to believe that the disease was contracted from a source outside the urban district.

At the beginning of the year, following the outbreak of typhoid in Switzerland, circular letters were sent to all food handling establishments; all milk producers and water companies asking them to approach every member of their staff to find out whether they had been in Zermatt or St. Moritz at any time since the beginning of February, 1963. The replies from all people circulated were negative.

In May, 1963, the Ministry of Health reported that there was reason to believe that imported egg products might have caused epidemics of paratyphoid in certain areas of Britain. Circular letters were, therefore, sent to bakeries and all food establishments to find out if they were using imported egg products. In all cases the replies were negative.

Extra precautions were taken in the district in June following an outbreak of typhoid in Harlow, Essex.

With an increasing number of people taking their holidays in Europe there is a greater risk of imported cases. Unfortunately this disease can be carried by people who feel quite well, and if they are engaged in food handling they can spread the disease unless the hygiene precautions are good. All employees in the school meals service are tested before employment to make sure they are not carriers of the disease.

Dysentery:

An epidemic of sonne dysentery began in the Hutton area at the end of June. This mostly affected school children and the two main schools affected were Brookfield Infants' and Junior Schools.

Although only 82 cases were notified by General Practitioners, intensive follow-up by the Public Health Inspectors and examinations of 799 specimens produced a total of 237 with a positive result and 562 negative by the 10th October, 1963, when the epidemic had subsided.

The disease started in a school child and was spread amongst the school children by direct contact. There was no spread by food or water. Following this epidemic, Brookfield Infants' School had hot water installed so that the children could wash their hands after going to the toilet. The Public Health Department had been pressing for this to be done for some considerable time. These investigations put a tremendous burden on the staff of the Public Health Department who were unable to carry out as many routine inspections as normal during this period.

During the course of the epidemic several food handlers, who were contacts of dysentery cases, were kept away from work until specimens had been shown to be negative.

Food Poisoning:

Only two cases were notified during the year. However, a man who was found to be a symptomless excretor of *Salmonella* (St. Paul) was resistant to treatment and had to be kept off work for a long time. This cost the Council a considerable amount in respect of compensation for loss of earnings.

Frequent inspection of all food premises is necessary to minimise the incidence of food poisoning and considerable importance is placed on routine visits to such premises by the Public Health inspectors.

Tuberculosis:

There were ten new cases; only a slight reduction on the previous year, showing that there is still a reservoir of infection. All school children before leaving school are offered B.C.G. vaccination to protect them.

Dr. Woolf has been good enough to send me the following statistics of the work against Tuberculosis at the Brentwood Chest Clinic. Sixty-nine persons attended the Chest Clinic who live outside the Urban District of Brentwood.

	Respiratory			Non-respiratory		
	M.	F.	C.	M.	F.	C.
Cases on Register as at 1.1.63	174	166	5	8	13	7
New notifications	3	7	—	1	1	—
Transfers IN	15	16	—	—	1	—
Transfers OUT	9	6	1	—	—	—
Deaths	3	2	—	—	—	—
Recovered	8	7	—	—	1	—
Gone abroad	1	—	—	—	—	—
Total number removed from register	9	8	1	—	1	—
Cases on register as at 31.12.63	169	166	4	9	14	7

The Mass Radiography Unit visited Brentwood during October and took chest X-rays of some 3,804 persons. This service is run by the North East Metropolitan Regional Hospital Board.

Following the survey 88 persons were recalled for a full-size X-ray and 20 of them were referred to the Chest Clinic. This is a valuable preventive service.

Section "B"

LOCAL ORGANISATIONS AND SERVICES

Tuberculosis After-Care Association:

This voluntary organisation continues its good work. Mrs. Looker, the new Secretary of this Association, has given me the following information:—

In the early part of 1963, the Association sustained a great loss in the sudden death of its Chairman, Councillor A. V. Cave. Mr. Cave had been Chairman since its formation in November, 1949. The Association also lost its Treasurer, Mr. H. A. Harvey, and Secretary, Mrs. H. A. Harvey, who left the district on Mr. Harvey's retirement. Mr. H. J. Looker has been elected Chairman and Mrs. Looker has taken over the Secretaryship. Mr. Martin Bray, Manager of the National Provincial Bank, has been elected Treasurer, and the Committee is run under the guidance of Dr. E. Woolf of the Brentwood Chest Clinic and Dr. Rix, who is the Vice-Chairman.

Owing to the change of officers it has been difficult to give a full report on the activities during 1963. £300 has been spent for needy patients in the purchase of daily milk, weekly eggs and groceries, and in approved cases, materials to assist in rehabilitation.

Laundry Service for the Incontinent:

This service fulfils a very great need amongst the old and sick whose laundry is soiled and unsuitable for sending to a commercial laundry. Expenditure on the service rose during the year and twenty-one new patients received help.

Health Education:

In April the Central Council for Health Education sent a mobile unit, paid for by the Brentwood Urban District Council, which had a display advising the public on the dangers of cigarette smoking. A lecture was given, followed by a film show, at the Brentwood School Memorial Hall. Advertisements were placed in the local Press, numerous posters showing the dangers of smoking were distributed, and special visits were made to schools in the area.

Other fields in which health education is carried out are Home Safety and Road Safety controlled by the appropriate Committees and supported by the Brentwood Urban District Council.

Accidents have been described as the "modern epidemic", and I am very concerned to give all possible help for preventive measures. Foremost amongst these is education of the public which is a slow and continuing process, the results of which are difficult to assess. As well as the efforts made by the Brentwood Urban District Council, a tremendous amount of health education among mothers, children and old people is carried out by officers of the Essex County Council.

Home Safety:

The following report has been received from Miss E. P. Turff, Honorary Secretary of the Brentwood Home Safety Committee.

"Before I recount the activities of the Committee during 1963, I must recall the very great loss we sustained in the death of our Chairman, Mr. A. C. Seager. Mr. Seager had been elected Chairman at the very formation of this Committee in 1959, and was a most loyal and efficient member.

The Medical Officer of Health, Dr. Dilwyn T. Jones, left the district to take up a new appointment as Deputy Medical Officer of Health to the Port and City of London. His wise guidance, encouragement, and real support was of tremendous help to us all. We are very pleased indeed that Dr. J. R. Wray has agreed to become our new Chairman. To have the interest and support from the Medical Officer of Health is of enormous help in our work.

The highlights of 1963 were two exhibitions. One exhibition was held at Hutton Fete in June and the other, a mobile exhibition which toured the district during October, 1963.

A classroom at All Saints' Primary School was placed at our disposal in connection with the Hutton Fete and 1,000 leaflets on "Family Fire Safety" were distributed, together with other literature on Home Safety.

During the month of October we organised a mobile exhibition which was officially opened by Councillor C. J. L. Fox, Chairman of the Brentwood Urban District Council. This exhibition was held in the car park of the Council Offices, and during the month visited St. Martin's Boys' and Girls' Schools, Shenfield Technical School and was stationed at the Hutton Playing Fields for several days. After the exhibition an essay competition was arranged amongst the school-children and prizes given for the best essays submitted. Members of the Committee felt that this had been a very worthwhile project.

Posters which had been drawn up by Dr. D. T. Jones on the dangers of bathing were given to all schools with swimming baths, and the Brentwood public bath.

The very great financial aid given to the Committee by the Brentwood Urban District Council is very much appreciated. It would be quite impossible for us to carry out our campaigns in an attempt to save life without their help. It is indeed a staggering thought when one realises that some 8,000 people die a year in Britain as a result of accidents which happen in their homes. Four-fifths of these fatalities occur in children under five years and in elderly people over 65 years of age. Tens of thousands of serious non-fatal cases receive in-patient hospital treatment, while one to two million cases are treated in hospital out-patient departments. Home accidents are of many different kinds—falls, burns, scalds, cuts, poisoning, suffocation, electrocution, etc., and the consequences of these can be so serious that unflagging effort is needed from all who can help to educate the public in the prevention of accidents. We must carry on this work with even greater effort. It is only by educating the children and their parents that we can hope to reduce this enormous loss of life."

Report on Brentwood Road Safety Committee Work in 1963:

At the beginning of 1963, Mr. J. E. P. Rimmington, the Road Safety Organiser for many years, retired for health reasons, and in his place Mr. A. G. M. Bond was appointed in March. Mr. Bond has kindly given me the following report:—

“A special training course for R.S.O.'s was held in April at Torquay, organised by RoSPA which the Road Safety Organiser attended, and subsequently fully reported to all members of the Road Safety Committee. The theme for the year was ‘Get Fit for the Road’ and was applicable as much or more to attitude of mind as to condition of person and vehicle.

In April and May, cycling proficiency training was given to children and also Adult, Senior and Junior Quiz Competitions commenced. June was highlighted by a Road Safety Week in which pamphlets were distributed, exhibitions arranged and a concours-de-elegance of veteran cars organised in addition to re-action testing equipment and general propaganda.

July saw a Road Safety Carnival float entry and August and September concluded the cycle training sessions. In October the RoSPA Road Safety Congress at Westminster was attended and reported on by both Road Safety Organiser and Chairman.

Also in that month the first of three Advanced Driving Courses for members of the public was started in co-operation with the Essex Constabulary and these continued throughout November and December with great success.

Throughout 1963, the Brentwood Road Safety Committee has also actively concerned itself with major and minor engineering improvement schemes, road surfaces, sight lines, problems of speed and local hazards, extra signs, increase of safety factor at crossings and many matters raised by local residents. At all times there has been liaison with RoSPA and the Road Research Laboratories in keeping abreast of the latest knowledge on why accidents occur and how to reduce those grim figures.”

The Committee and Road Safety Organiser enter 1964 convinced that the positive approach to Road Safety lies in training all road users to greater responsibility and higher skills and it is apt that the theme for 1964 is “Think Ahead”.

Welfare Services—Voluntary Organisations:

The Brentwood Urban District Council is empowered to grant money to voluntary organisations whose activities include the provision of recreation or meals for old people. In this respect a contribution is made to the W.V.S. “Meals-on-wheels” service which is an excellent service for helping old people to supplement their diet with hot meals served in their homes.

As far as recreational facilities are concerned elderly persons are well served by the Old People's Clubs in every Ward, but the Council does not make any contribution to these Clubs.

Section "C"

ENVIRONMENTAL CIRCUMSTANCES OF THE AREA

Sewerage and Sewage Disposal:

Scattered throughout the district there are 131 properties served only by night buckets which are emptied weekly. No charge is made for this service. This method of sewage disposal has to be watched from the point of view of flyborne infection, but it causes less public health nuisance than that arising from old leaking cesspools.

There are 278 properties with cesspools that are emptied regularly on payment of a sub-economic charge. Difficulties arise in emptying these cesspools in narrow lanes where the vehicle blocks the traffic.

The eventual elimination of night buckets and cesspools will only come about through the extension of the main sewerage system, but in view of the cost to the ratepayer progress is bound to be slow. A provisional programme has been drawn up for the main areas and it is hoped to extend the sewers along the Chelmsford and Rayleigh Roads during 1964. The most urgent problem, however, is the improvement of the sewage disposal works at Nags Head Lane and Lapwater Hall.

Mr. T. V. Martin, Engineer and Surveyor to the Brentwood Urban District Council, has kindly given me the following report:—

"The works carried out during 1963 include a scheme for Magpie Lane, Childerditch, which makes provision for the connection of thirteen additional properties to the main sewerage system. These works are now almost completed.

Orders for specialist plant and equipment amounting to approximately £60,000 have now been placed with specialist suppliers in connection with the major extension to the Lapwater Hall Sewage Disposal Works in the Parish of Ingrave. Tenders are now being obtained for the main Civil Engineering Work and it is anticipated that this will be commenced in the Spring of 1964.

The Ministry of Housing and Local Government have now held an enquiry into the Council's proposals for the carrying out the major scheme for an extension to the Nags Head Lane Sewage Disposal Works which serve the central area of the Urban District. Work in the preparation of this scheme is now proceeding, and preliminary site investigation works have already been carried out and it is anticipated that a start will be made during the forthcoming year.

Approval has also been received from the Ministry of Housing and Local Government for installing additional pumping units at the Council's Crow Green Lane Pumping Station, and for extending the present rising main for pumping the whole of the sewage flow to the Nags Head Lane Sewage Works. These pumps will replace the existing small ejector pumping unit to accommodate additional development in this area."

Water Supply:

I have received reports from the South Essex Waterworks Company and the Southend Waterworks Company, both of whom report that:—

- (a) Water supply to the area and its several parts has been satisfactory in quality and quantity;
- (b) Bacteriological and chemical examinations of the raw water and water going into supply are made regularly. In the case of the Southend Waterworks Company regular daily samples are taken, and in the case of the South Essex Waterworks Company a total of over 3,967 examinations were made. In addition samples were examined for radioactivity;
- (c) There was no plumbo-solvent action in the water from either supply;
- (d) No action was necessary in respect of any form of contamination from either supply;
- (e) The South Essex Waterworks Company supplied a population of about 49,423 by direct supply to 15,250 houses. The number of houses supplied by standpipes was insignificant. Southend Waterworks Company supplied a population of 3,507 by direct supply to 1,044 houses, but no houses by standpipes.

The fluoride content of the water from the South Essex Waterworks Company is 0.25 p.p.m. which is less than the optimum of 1 p.p.m. required to prevent dental decay in children, and in May, 1963, the Urban District Council of Brentwood passed a resolution to the effect that they have no objection to the treatment of water supplies by fluoridation. No action can be taken by the Waterworks Company until all Councils whose areas are served by the Company have agreed. There are many areas in Essex in which people have been drinking water with a higher fluoride content than 1 p.p.m. for generations with no ill effect. The supply from the Southend Waterworks Company varies during the year (according to samples the Public Health Department has taken locally) from 3.5 p.p.m. to 0.3 p.p.m. The variations are due to the source of supply; borehole water has a higher content of fluoride than river water.

Essex is on the whole short of water, and a re-organisation of water undertakings is at present under discussion.

Refuse Disposal:

The Council use a privately owned refuse tip for refuse disposal. The control of the tipping is very unsatisfactory, and the only answer is for the Council to purchase the land and carry out the tipping with their own staff.

Housing:

Brentwood is fortunate in that the majority of its housing conforms to a good standard. There are areas of old houses, and where individual houses become unfit they are dealt with under Closing and Demolition Orders and details of this can be found in the Chief Public Health Inspector's Report. An area that is due to be re-developed is the Railway Square and St. James' Road area.

During the year 367 new houses were erected by private builders and 92 new houses were erected by the Brentwood Council. Despite this there is a long waiting list for Council housing. On the present building programme it is estimated that there will still be a deficiency of 309 houses in the period 1964-1967. A close watch will have to be kept that privately rented houses do not become overcrowded through multiple occupation.

Overcrowding:

Four cases of overcrowding were brought to the notice of the Public Health Department, and as all the families concerned were either occupants of Council houses, or applicants on the Housing list, no statutory action was necessary in any case. All cases were referred to the Council's Housing Manager.

Atmospheric Pollution:

Since 1957 the atmospheric pollution in the district has been measured monthly by apparatus set up at the London Road Cemetery. The amount of soot and ash deposited throughout the district monthly has been shown to vary from about $4\frac{1}{2}$ tons per square mile to 20 tons per square mile, although the monthly average is about 10 tons per square mile. This is not nearly as much as in the industrial Midlands. The sulphur content of the air is also measured monthly and this varies considerably from month to month.

It is possible that the meteorological conditions and the prevailing wind cause these variations and that a lot of the pollution comes from the London area. It would, however, be a pity to abandon efforts at smoke control despite the difficulties and expense because atmospheric pollution is a definite factor associated with lung cancer and chronic bronchitis. Lung cancer is commoner in people who live in the towns compared with those who live in rural areas. It is also far commoner in industrial countries than in developing countries. However, a major factor is the self-pollution of one's own atmosphere by smoking.

Common Lodging Houses:

There are no common lodging houses in the district.

Section "D"

GENERAL PROVISIONS OF HEALTH SERVICES FOR THE AREA

National Health Service Act, 1946

Part II—Hospital Services:

Brentwood Group Hospital Management Committee
Annual Return for year ended 31st December, 1963

	Brentwood District	Maternity Home	Harold Wood	High Wood	St. Faith's only	Alexandra Annexe	Specialist Clinics	Totals
1. Staffed beds allocated at 31st December, 1963 ...	62	14	382	184	346	28	—	1016
2. Average daily number of available beds ...	62	14	379	161	346	28	—	990
3. Average daily bed occupation during year ...	46.04 (74.25%)	11.64 (83.14%)	325.37 (85.84%)	140.61 (87.33%)	182.16 (52.64%)	25.41 (90.75%)	—	731.23
4. Discharges and deaths during year	1602	428	6367	389	129	11	—	8926
5. Annual Number of Consultative Clinic Sessions held ...	488	—	1431	310	—	—	160	2389
6. New Out-patients during year ...	3822	—	8460	895	—	—	390	13567
7. Total attendances during year ...	10817	—	42215	5112	—	—	2293	60437
8. Accident and Emergency attendances ...	1257	—	21060	—	—	—	—	22317
9. Physiotherapy:								
(a) New In-patients ...	180	317	1766	104	—	—	—	2367
Attendances ...	2095	738	18784	5051	—	—	—	26668
(b) New Out-patients ...	1413	242	1051	344	—	—	121	3171
Attendances ...	13470	557	13286	4935	—	—	2176	34424
(c) Total Treatments ...	32832	1937	42439	17395	—	—	2410	97013
Group Exercises:								
New patients ...	—	—	282	—	—	—	—	282
Attendances ...	—	—	3925	—	—	—	—	3925
Total Treatments ...	—	—	8317	—	—	—	—	8317

	Obstetric	Home	Infant	Infant	Infant	Infant	Infant	Infant	Infant	Totals
10. Occupational Therapy:										
(a) New In-patients	316	108	11	—	—	—	—	435
Attendances	56222	5345	15238	—	—	—	—	76805
(b) New Out-patients	267	126	—	—	—	—	—	393
Attendances	7813	1337	—	—	—	—	—	9150
11. Speech Therapy:										
(a) New In-patients	12	—	—	—	—	—	—	12
Attendances	102	—	—	—	—	—	—	102
(b) New Out-patients	34	—	—	—	—	—	—	34
Attendances	637	—	—	—	—	—	—	637
12. Audiometry:										
(a) New In-patients	6	1	—	—	—	—	—	10
Attendances	6	2	—	—	—	—	—	11
(b) New Out-patients	74	53	—	—	—	—	—	328
Attendances	101	68	—	—	—	—	—	448
13. Orthoptics:										
(a) New In-patients	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Attendances	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
(b) New Out-patients	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Attendances	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
14. Surgical Appliances:										
(a) New In-patients	36	78	—	—	—	—	—	114
Attendances	36	92	—	—	—	—	—	128
(b) New Out-patients	325	699	—	—	—	—	—	1024
Attendances	1078	774	—	—	—	—	—	1852
15. Dietetics:										
(a) New In-patients	—	420	—	—	—	—	—	420
Attendances	—	12596	—	—	—	—	—	12596
(b) New Out-patients	—	386	—	—	—	—	—	386
Attendances	—	927	—	—	—	—	—	927
16. X-ray Units:										
(a) In-patients	723	20469	—	—	—	—	—	21834
(b) Out-patients and others	14990	33429	—	—	—	—	—	48779
										5699 - Chest Clinic

WARLEY HOSPITAL

The statistics from Warley Hospital are important because there are about 1,700 patients who contribute to the morbidity and mortality of the district, although many are drawn from surrounding areas such as Dagenham and Thurrock. However, as can be seen from the extracts below taken from the Annual Report of the Physician Superintendent, Sir Geoffrey Nightingale, the statistics are very favourable to the district.

During the year there were 166 deaths of which 45 were in the age group 65/74 years; 23 in the age group 75/79 years; 56 in the age group 80/89 years; and 3 aged 90 years or over; thus a total of 127 (76.5%) were over 65 years of age at death.

	Male	Female	Total
Number of patients on books at 31.12.62	722	1,003	1,725
Number admitted during 1963	530	875	1,405
Number discharged and left during 1963	447	728	1,175
Transferred to other hospitals	—	3	3
Died	79	87	166
On books at 31.12.63	726	1,060	1,786
	New	Old	Total
Grand total of all OUT-patients seen:—	838	5,086	5,924

The health of the patients generally has been good, apart from one small and rather troublesome outbreak of Salmonella infection. Tuberculosis remains a small problem, with 5 active male and 1 active female patients, plus 14 males and 3 females regarded as "quiescent". The combined male and female Tuberculosis Unit is working extremely satisfactorily.

A Mass X-Ray survey of patients and staff was completed during the year.

NATIONAL BLOOD TRANSFUSION SERVICE

I have received the following report from the Director of the North-East Metropolitan Regional Blood Transfusion Centre in Brentwood:—

"In 1963, blood donor sessions for the Brentwood panel again took place at St. Thomas' Parish Hall, Eastfield Road, and at the Royal Signals T.A. Drill Hall, Chestnut Grove. In addition, a new donation centre was opened at St. Mary's Parish Hall, Shenfield.

1,499 attendances were made by Brentwood citizens at 14 sessions held during the year, an increase of approximately 6% on the previous year's figures.

In addition to the donors themselves, members of the W.V.S. gave valuable help to the National Blood Transfusion Service in providing regular assistance at these sessions.

Local firms again allowed donor sessions to be held at their works and 328 additional donations were given at these sessions in the past year. During 1963 over 80,000 bottles of blood were issued to the hospitals from the Centre.

With the increasing use of blood transfusion in our local hospitals, more volunteers are required to maintain this essential Service. All who are in good health and between the ages of 18 and 65 years are invited to become blood donors."

Part III—Local Health Authority Services:

The following is a list of the Clinical Sessions provided by the South Essex Area Health Committee and held at the BRENTWOOD COMBINED TREATMENT CENTRE, 39 Queens Road, Brentwood, Essex. (Telephone: Brentwood 1863.)

Type of Service	Day and Time
Child Welfare	Monday afternoons, 2 p.m. till 4 p.m.
Dental Inspection	Monday afternoons, 2 p.m. till 3.30 p.m.
Immunisation and Vaccination (Section 26)	1st Monday afternoon in the month
Minor Ailment (School Health Service)	Tuesday mornings
Midwives' Clinic	Tuesday afternoons
Relaxation Classes	Tuesday mornings and Thursday afternoons
Ophthalmic Clinic (School Health Service)	By appointment only
Dental Treatment	By appointment only
Speech Therapy	By appointment only
Chiropody (for Old Age Pensioners, Persons Handicapped, and Expectant Mothers only)	By appointment only

The following is a list of Clinical Sessions provided at the THREE ARCH BRIDGE CLINIC, Cherry Avenue, Brentwood, Essex. (Telephone Brentwood 767.)

Type of Service	Day and Time
Chiropody	2nd Monday in month, by appointment
Audiometry Sessions	2nd Tuesday in the month
Minor Ailment	1st, 3rd and 5th Tuesday mornings in month
Child Welfare	Every Wednesday afternoon
Child Welfare (Doctor in attendance)	2nd Wednesday in month
Speech Therapy	Wednesday mornings, by appointment.
Immunisation, including polio vaccination	Thursday afternoons (3rd in month)
Women's Welfare	Thursday mornings (1st and 3rd in month)

The following is a list of Clinical Sessions provided at the HUTTON CLINIC, Coram Green, Hutton, Essex. (Telephone: Brentwood 6182.)

Type of Service	Day and Time
Midwives Clinic	Every Monday afternoon 3.15 p.m.—4 p.m.
Relaxation Classes	Tuesday mornings, 10 a.m.—12 noon
Infant Welfare	Tuesday afternoons, 2 p.m.—4 p.m.
Minor Ailment (Doctor in attendance)	Wednesday mornings, 9.30 a.m.—11.30 a.m.
Child Welfare	Wednesday afternoons, 2 p.m.—4 p.m.
Immunisation	Every Wednesday afternoon, by appointment
Dental Clinic	By appointment only

Subsidiary Centres:

Meeting Place	Day and Time
Ingrave Clinic (held at St. Nicholas Church Hall (Doctor in attendance)	2nd and 4th Monday afternoons in month
Childerditch Clinic (held at Little Warley School)	1st and 3rd Tuesday afternoons in month
South Weald Clinic (held at 85 London Road)	2nd and 4th Tuesday afternoons in month
Bentley Clinic (held at the Village Club) (Doctor in attendance)	1st, 3rd and 5th Thursday afternoons in month
West Horndon (held at the Village Hall, Thorndon Avenue) (Doctor in attendance)	2nd and 4th Thursday afternoons in month

The Area Medical Officer, Dr. R. D. Pearce, has been kind enough to let me have the following information on the number of people seen at the Brentwood Foot Clinic, and the number of people given various protective immunisations during the year:—

Brentwood Foot Clinic:	New Patients—Adults	98	
	Children	—	
	Attendances —Adults	2,610	
	Children	—	
	Number of Sessions	398	
Diphtheria/Whooping Cough/	Number of Domiciliary visits	838	
	Primary	789	
Tetanus (Triple):	Booster	285	
Diphtheria/Tetanus:	Primary	34	
	Booster	108	
Diphtheria:	Primary	1	
	Booster	153	
Tetanus:	Primary	245	
	Booster	96	
Vaccination against Smallpox:	Vaccinated	154	
	Re-vaccinated	158	
B.C.G. Vaccination:	Tuberculin Tested	635	
	No. rec'd B.C.G.	536	
Polio-myelitis Vaccination:	Salk Vaccine:	Primary	2
		3rd booster injections	9
		4th booster injections	1
	Oral Vaccine:	Primary	1,039
		3rd booster	209
		4th booster	915

The County Ambulance Service:

The ambulance service is centrally administered and is the responsibility of the Essex County Council. Dr. G. G. Stewart, the County Medical Officer of Health, has kindly provided the following information relating to the operation of the County Ambulance Service in the Brentwood Urban District during 1963:—

Ambulance vehicles	...	2
Dual Purpose vehicles	...	2
Stretcher cases	...	1,610
Other cases	...	17,916
Total cases conveyed	...	19,526
Total mileage	...	102,702
Total emergency cases	...	1,563

Part IV General Practitioners' Service:

The medical practitioners serving the Brentwood area are mostly in group practices, and they all provide a first class service, the results of which are reflected in the vital statistics for the Urban District.

The family doctor is the most important person in the field of health, and by his advice and treatment he makes a major contribution to community health. He is also the first line of defence against an epidemic as by notifying an infectious disease he may enable the Medical Officer of Health to take measures in time to check its spread. In this respect I consider that the list of notifiable diseases is out of date, and should be amended by the Ministry of Health. In particular I cannot see the point of notifying measles, as there is still no reliable vaccine, and as things stand at present every child has to get an attack sooner or later.

SECTION E

DEPARTMENT OF THE CHIEF PUBLIC HEALTH INSPECTOR

Inspection of Area:	Inspec- tions	Re-inspec- tions
Housing Acts 1936-1957 (Demolition or Closure	41	66
Housing Acts, 1957 (Repair of Housing Defects)	15	99
Housing Acts (Overcrowding)	9	8
Public Health Act (Remedy of Sanitary Defects)	125	430
Housing Acts—Improvement Grants	63	309
Housing Acts—Standard Grants	17	64
Housing Acts—Inquiries re Grants, etc.	137	—
House Improvements—Survey	102	—
Houses in Multiple Occupation	74	24
Public Health Act (General)	165	111
Infectious Diseases	1,203	84
Food Poisoning Investigation	3	2
Verminous or Dirty Premises	23	35
Disinfestation (Pests etc.)	9	—
Water Supplies	50	26
Drainage and Sewerage	137	190
Cesspools and Pail Closets	35	37
Ponds, ditches, etc.	47	51
Keeping of swine, fowl, etc.	12	3
Accumulation of Refuse	26	17
Refuse Tips	78	—
Rats and Mice (General)	25	8
Rats and Mice (Sewer baiting)	51	—
Factories (Power)	65	4
Factories (Non-Power)	3	—

Inspection of Area:						Inspections	Re-inspections
Outworkers	...	...	...	...	...	34	—
Shops Act	...	...	...	...	...	318	1
Shops Act Survey	...	...	...	...	...	53	—
Hairdressers Premises	...	...	...	...	...	11	2
Massage Establishments	...	...	...	...	...	11	—
Pet Shops	...	...	...	...	...	3	2
Moveable Dwellings	...	...	...	...	...	12	7
Swimming Bath Visits	...	...	...	...	...	21	—
Swimming Bath Samples	...	...	...	...	...	15	—
Diseases of Animals Act	...	...	...	...	...	13	2
Clean Air Act	...	...	...	...	...	252	93
Smoke Observations	...	...	...	...	...	3	1
Schools (Washing and Sanitary Facilities)	...	...	...	...	...	7	—
Miscellaneous Visits	...	...	...	...	...	462	4
Miscellaneous Interviews	...	...	...	...	...	26	1
Cinemas	...	...	...	...	...	—	1
Noise Abatement Act	...	...	...	...	...	18	7
Betting and Gaming Act	...	...	...	...	...	2	—
						<hr/> 3,776 <hr/>	<hr/> 1,689 <hr/>

Visits by Disinfestation and Rodent Operator:

Rat Destruction	...	...	...	...	1,113
Laundry Service for the Incontinent					
(number of calls to patients)	...	...	...	...	1,453
Disinfestation	...	...	...	...	55
Assisting Public Health Inspectors	...	...	...	...	75
Pond Treatment (Mosquito control)					42
Drain Testing	...	...	...	...	12
Miscellaneous	...	...	...	...	18
					<hr/> 2,768 <hr/>
Number of Complaints Received	...	...	...	...	532

FOOD PREMISES

Owing to staff difficulties it was not possible to carry out as many inspections of food premises as was desirable. The general standards in the area, however, remain reasonably satisfactory. Regular inspections are the one and only method of insuring that these do not fall below what is necessary, and it is hoped that more frequent inspections will be possible during 1964.

FOOD INSPECTION

Knacker's Yards	...	...	...	...	...	1
Meat Shops	...	...	...	...	...	53
Fried Fish Shops	...	...	...	...	...	17
Other Food Shops	...	...	...	...	...	235
Cafes, etc.	...	...	...	...	...	77
Licensed Premises	...	...	...	...	...	21
Ice-cream Premises	...	...	...	...	...	62
Dairies and Milk Shops	...	...	...	...	...	37
Food Factories	...	...	...	...	...	8
Bakehouses	...	...	...	...	...	17
Canteens (School)	...	...	...	...	...	26
Canteens (Factory)	...	...	...	...	...	11
Canteens (Institutional)	...	...	...	...	...	10
Mobile Shops	...	...	...	...	...	22
Milk and Ice-cream Vehicles	...	...	...	...	...	19
Samples (Milk)	...	...	...	...	...	46
Samples (Ice-cream)	...	...	...	...	...	44
Samples (Water)	...	...	...	...	...	6
						<hr/> 712 <hr/>

MEAT INSPECTION

No licensed slaughterhouses are at present in use in Brentwood, although a large abattoir is expected to come into use in the area in the near future. Unless the Council are given powers to regulate the hours of slaughtering at this proposed slaughterhouse, it is anticipated that very considerable staffing difficulties are likely to be experienced. Public Health work as a whole, for which this Department is responsible to various other Ministries, will suffer if over emphasis is given to meat inspection outside office hours, as a result of the present unrealistic Meat Inspection Regulations made by the Ministry of Agriculture, Fisheries and Food.

MILK SUPPLIES

Forty-six samples of milk were taken during the year for bacteriological examination. Forty-one of these were satisfactory. Satisfactory results were subsequently obtained in respect of all unsatisfactory samples. Little trouble was experienced during the year from dirty containers and generally milk supplies appeared very satisfactory.

ICE-CREAM SAMPLES

Sixty-two visits to ice-cream premises were made and forty-four samples were taken for bacteriological examination. With one exception these were all satisfactory, and it seems that wrapped ice-cream generally is a clean and satisfactory product. It is nevertheless felt that production of 'soft' ice-cream from mobile vehicles should be more effectively controlled than is possible under existing legislation.

UN SOUND FOOD

The total amount of unsound food condemned during the course of the year was approximately 755 lbs.

SWIMMING BATHS

Sampling was regularly carried out at the Public and School Swimming Baths. The results of samples were as follows:—

	No. of samples taken	No. of samples satisfactory
Brentwood Urban District Council's Public Bath	5	5
Brentwood Boys' School Bath	1	1
Brentwood Girls' County High School Bath	3	3
Ursuline High School for Girls' Bath	3	3
Shenfield Technical College Bath	3	3

Whilst all results were generally satisfactory, it was necessary in some cases for the Analyst to comment on the acid or alkaline condition of the water and the free chlorine content. All such observations were automatically passed on to the authorities concerned.

CLEAN AIR ACT, 1956

The Brentwood, Hutton (No. 3) Smoke Control Order, affecting some 535 houses duly came into force on the 1st October, 1963.

In the light of the current fuel position it is at the present time impossible to say what further Orders are likely to be proposed in the Urban District. It now seems that the Council's overall plan to make the whole of the district smoke controlled within a period of ten years will probably be impracticable because of the increased cost of converting appliances for the burning of the restricted kinds of smokeless fuel now available.

HOUSING

During the year thirteen houses were demolished, five houses were closed and five parts of buildings were closed. Some eighty-one houses were made fit as a result of formal or informal Notices served by the Department, Numerous other small defects in addition were dealt with informally.

Much time continues to be spent dealing with applications for Standard and Discretionary Grants. The work is supervised by the department and continues to be well worthwhile.

The scheme to re-develop an area containing some fifty or so sub-standard houses has now been approved in principle by the Council, and it is anticipated that Ministerial approval to this will be forthcoming some time in 1964.

HOUSING STATISTICS

Houses in clearance areas and unfit houses elsewhere:—

(a) Houses demolished during the year:					
In clearance areas	...	...	...	...	Nil
Not in clearance areas (As a result of formal or informal procedure under Section 17 (i) Housing Act, 1957)	...				13
(b) Unfit houses closed during the year:					
Under Section 16 (4), 17 (1) and 35 (1) Housing Act, 1957					5
Parts of buildings closed	...	...	...	...	5
(c) Unfit houses made fit and houses in which defects were remedied:					
(a) After informal action by Local Authority	...	...			60
(b) After formal notice under:					
(i) Public Health Acts	...	...	...	...	11
(ii) Sections 9 and 16 Housing Act, 1957	...	...			10
(d) Unfit houses in temporary use:	...	...	...	...	Nil
(e) Purchase of houses by agreement	...	...	...	...	Nil

(1) INSPECTIONS for purposes of provisions as to health (including inspections made by Public Health Inspectors).

Premises (1)	Number on Register (2)	Inspections (3)	Number of:	
			Written notices (4)	Occupiers prosecuted (5)
(i) Factories in which Sections 1 2, 3, 4 and 6 are to be enforced by Local Authorities	14	3	—	—
(ii) Factories not included in (i) in which Section 7 is enforced by the Local Authority	123	69	2	1
(iii) Other Premises in which Section 7 is enforced by the Local Authority (ex- cluding out-workers' premises) ...	—	—	—	—
Total:	137	72	2	1

(2) Cases in which DEFECTS were found.

(If defects are discovered at the premises on two, three or more separate occasions they should be reckoned as two, three or more "cases").

Particulars	Number of cases in which defects were found		Number of cases in which prosecutions were instituted		
	Found Remedied		Referred		
	(1)	(2)	To H.M. Inspector	By H.M. Inspector	(6)
	(1)	(2)	(3)	(4)	(5)
Want of Cleanliness (S.1)	2	2	1	1
Overcrowding (S.2)	—	—	—	—
Unreasonable temperature (S.3)	—	—	—	—
Inadequate ventilation (S.4)	—	—	—	—
Ineffective drainage of floors (S.6)	—	—	—	—
Sanitary Conveniences (S.7)					
(a) Insufficient	2	—	—	—
(b) Unsuitable or defective	3	2	1	—
(c) Not separate for sexes	—	—	—	—
Other offences against the Act (not including offences relating to Outwork)	—	—	—	—
Total:	7	4	1	2	1



